



Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame

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For Immediate Release

Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame Honors 2016 Inductees

NEWARK – The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame (DAHf) will induct six notable First State aviation achievers for 2016 and recognize one young aviator. They will be celebrated at an Honors Banquet at the University of Delaware’s Clayton Hall on October 1, 2016. Founded in 2000 to commemorate outstanding service in military and civilian aviation, the Hall of Fame has now recognized, through 2015, a total of 98 current or former Delawareans who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of aviation/aerospace in Delaware, brought singular credit to the First State in their achievements elsewhere and/or have shown gallantry in aviation in service to the First State and/or the Nation.

The 2016 Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame selectees are:

LaSans Alexander - Currently employed for the National Guard Bureau at Joint Base Andrews, MD, Ms. Alexander is a 34 year Air Traffic Control (ATC) veteran who served 16 ½ years in the United States Air Force. She continued her career within the Department of Defense and has dedicated the past 19 years of service to the Delmarva area.

David Archino - An Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Archino flew support missions throughout the Pacific, accumulating over 4000 hours of flying time (including 560 combat hours in Vietnam). He has flown a variety of aircraft and participated in testing new airdrop systems for the Parachute Test Group at NAF.

David Ham – During his 42 year military career, Col. (Ret.) David R. Ham served more than 39 years in a variety of positions in aviation with the Delaware National Guard, piloting a wide variety of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. His units received numerous awards for accident free flying and aviation excellence.

Fred T. Johnson – Mr. Fred Johnson, Delaware's last surviving documented Tuskegee Airman was the only black commissioned navigator from the State of Delaware. He volunteered for the Army Air corps in 1943. He was the first African American to teach at Wilmington's Warner Junior High School and retired as Chairman of the Science Department in 1981.

Thomas Nale - A combat pilot and forward air controller in Korea, Captain Nale flew 20 combat missions in F-84 fighters. A member of the Pennsylvania and then the Delaware National Guard, he was severely burned in an engine failure crash near Dover in an F-86H. After retiring from the National Guard, he worked designing aircraft arresting equipment for All American Engineering.

James Vreeland - Mr Vreeland has worked as a flight instructor, crop duster and commercial pilot. He got his pilot's license at 17, his commercial ticket at 18 and his instructor's ticket at 19. After working as a crop duster he went to work for Piedmont Airlines and was a captain, check airman and instructor. After retiring from Piedmont he went back to crop dusting. He has logged 33,645 hours in 102 different aircraft and has instructed 984 students.

Youth Aviation Achievement Award Winner:

Dylan Kelsall – Mr. Kelsall is an Honor Roll student at Lake forest High School. He is a Master Sergeant and Flight Sergeant for Delta Flight. He was awarded the General J.F. Curry Award, the General Flap Arnold Award, the Mary Feik Award, the Wright Brothers Award, the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award and the Charles Lindbergh Award. He looks forward to 2017 when he will be old enough to solo an airplane.

For more information on the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, go to our web site www.dahf.org; by email directly to Bruce Lambrecht (brucelam@udel.edu); or by regular mail to DAHF, P.O. Box 4303, Greenville, DE 19807-0303.
